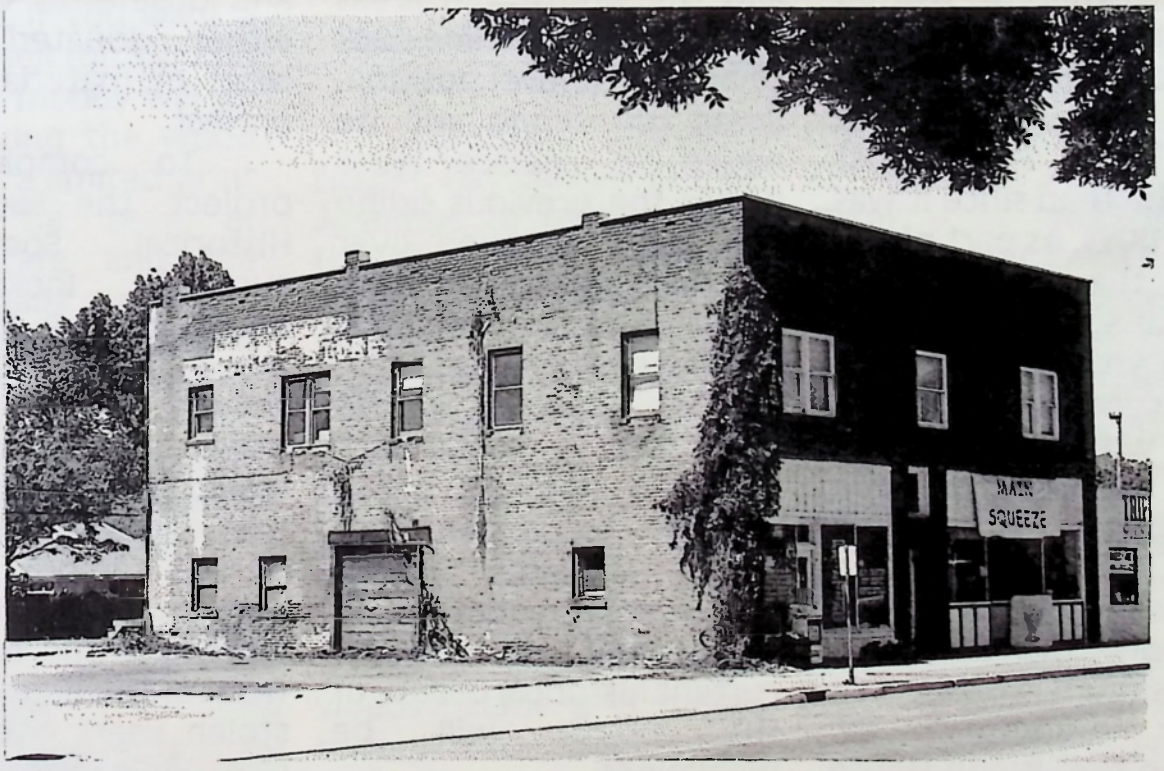
Eagle Point Historical Society Newsletter

JULY 2001



The Old Nichols Building

Marvin Wood House Project Update
by Skip Geear

After our effort to move the historic "Wood House" to the City of Eagle Point fell through late last year, several other possible options have been looked at since then, with most not being feasible for various reasons. However, finally the Marvin Wood House has been saved! It will stay at its present location on Highway 62 for the foreseeable future. The project chairman, Skip Geear, was able to negotiate a extremely reasonable and very feasible deal with the current owner of the 38 acres on Highway 62 where the Wood House has been located since 1947 (and before that, it sat just across the road since it was built in 1870). As part of the terms, the Eagle Point Historical Society will have a seven year lease on one acre surrounding the house, with an exclusive option to purchase the entire 38 acres at any time during the lease period over the next seven years.

Since the lease has been signed, plans are already underway to preserve the Wood House for tourists, photographers and artists. A bulldozer will be moving in shortly to repair and widen the circular access driveway in front of the house, and decomposed granite will be used as the top surface, thus totally eliminating all of the deep pot holes that currently exist. Several contractors have looked at the house with the project chairman to see what has to be done to preserve the house for the next 20 to 25 years. The existing roof will have to be replaced with a new roof, but old shingles will be used to maintain the present atmosphere of the house. New pillars and posts will be installed under both the front porch and the side porch areas bringing the roof line back to an almost level position. Some old siding will be added to replace areas where the previous siding had been removed over the years. Plans also include installing used doors and windows of the period to fill the openings in the house that currently exist to make this old house artifact more weather tight. Several other preservation tactics will be preformed, however, the current historical beauty of the house will be maintained.

Future plans call for installing a period type of fence that will be more suitable to the looks and history of the house, thus replacing the chain link fence that is currently on site. Two park benches will be placed near the house on the circular driveway for visitors who want to stop to admire the artifact and possibly have lunch there. Our goal is to have all this accomplished before winter.

Later in the year, the Eagle Point Historical Society plans to install a sign near the driveway area of the property which would give the history of the Wood House along with listing all those individuals and businesses who have either donated money, labor or materials to this project.

To complete this project, the Eagle Point Historical Society is currently looking for donations of old barn wood, windows, doors, shingle siding and any other used material that would be appropriate for the historical appearance of this famous house. A period iron gate is needed to replace the one at the front of the house that was stolen years ago. We are also looking for various pieces of old farm equipment, an old windmill and an out house to be placed on site with the Wood House to make the

Marvin Wood House Update (continued)

area more historically attractive.

We need volunteers, and funds to purchase materials. If you would like to help or contribute to this worthwhile project, send your tax deducible donation to:
Eagle Point Historical Society & Museum P. O. Box 201, Eagle Point, Or 97524.
Or contact Skip Geear:
826-2177.

We are planning some future fund raisers and writing for grant money. Our "Wood House" print by local artist, Thelma Ross has been selling well, If you want a print they sell for $30 and half of the money will go toward saving the Wood House. It is a limited print and can be seen at Moozie's Cafe and the Western Bank in Eagle Point and at Two Pines in Shady Cove. In addition, our space rent profits from our annual gigantic yard sale will go toward our Wood House project.

New Volunteer Video Producer Appointed

Everett Jennings

Curator, Barbara Hegne, has chosen Everett Jennings to master mind the Eagle Point Historical Society video section. With several grants the past years, the Museum owns an up to date video camera and complete editing system. Barbara produced several historical videos that are currently being shown on the PBS Television channel. Those videos include: a 15 minute history of early Eagle Point, the story of the Antelope Covered bridge and the history of the Butte Creek Mill. We own a CASABLANCA Editing System and a top of the line professional Canon XL1 camera along with a mixer, microphone, monitor, CD/cassette player and two tape decks. Our system came from generous grants from the Family Ford Foundation and the Cow Creek Seven Feathers Foundation.

Everett Jennings is a dependable, creative individual who has produced videos in the past. In addition, he is interested in preserving the history of Eagle Point and the surrounding areas. We welcome Everett to our staff.

Volunteer News

Louise Jackson pruned, potted, dug, trimmed and landscaped our flower garden. We thank Louise for helping us keep an attractive outside introduction to our museum. Wayne Jackson and son Mike, re-vamped our entire sprinkler system. Wayne has kept a watchful eye on the watering of our garden (and the leaks).

Thank you to Dale Diebold for hand trimming one of our old picture frames so a new bevel glass would fit it.

Our refreshments for our recent meetings have been provided by: Virginia Cutler, Ann Brookins, Arlene Hoffman, Beryl Hickson, and others. We invite the public to our meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7 P. M. and delicious refreshments afterward.

Most organizations need volunteers and they are hard to find. We need a few more volunteers for Saturdays. This would be one Saturday a month. If you know someone who would like to volunteer to help with the museum, please have them give the museum a call, 826-4166

Louise Jackson and son Mike are keeping our grounds looking wonderful

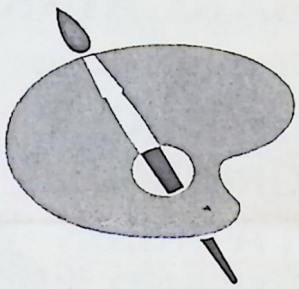
Thank you to the Eagle Point 4-H group, the Mavericks, for cleaning the Antelope Cemetery. The cemetery belongs to the Eagle Point Historical Society.

Two Ginger Rogers prints have been donated to the museum. Cecil Owings was involved in the printing and he had two prints left that he graciously donated to our museum. The print here is a water color titled "Still Life," Rogers Rogue River Ranch, done in 1940. Our other print is titled "Together Again," Hillsborough, an oil done in 1968. We are pleased to add these to our Ginger Rogers collection. Come in and see this great celebrity display

Museum Happenings

Art Show

We will be having an art show and grand celebration of our local artists coming up soon at the Two Pines Remington Room Shady Cove, Oregon. One of the featured artists will be Thelma Ross, painter of the Wood House, which the Eagle Point Museum is selling as a fund raiser to help save and restore this magnificent historical house.



Our Cover

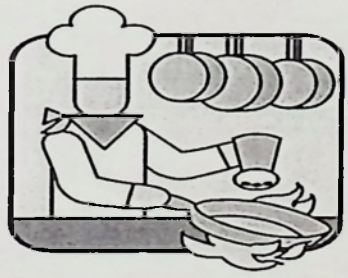
We have a good view of the old Thomas Nichols building since the service station has been torn down. It is located at 111-113 West Main Street and was built in 1912. The building has been used for a variety of businesses including: pool hall & billiards, grocery store, merchandising store, laundromat, variety store, restaurant and it even served as an observation room during WWII for the airplane watch.

Many people have wondered what the writing on the outside building reads. According an old interview (by Carol Barrrett), with Clayton Simmons, he said it reads Chirgwin (the top word) General Store.

Annual potluck and election of the Board of Officers

Our annual pot luck and election of the Board of Officers will be held Monday August 13 at Ed's Oasis on South Royal. Dinner will begin at 6:30 P. M. followed by a brief meeting and announcement of new Board Members and Officers. The museum will provide refreshments and dessert. If you have not been contacted on what to bring call Barbara 826-4166. Be sure to bring your own eating utensils. The public is always invited to our meetings and potluck, so bring a friend. Last year we had a tremendous turn out and a wonderful visiting time. Let's break that record this year.

GOOD FOOD AND LASTING FRIENDSHIPS



AS USUAL, WE WISH TO THANK ED DAHACK FOR DONATING HIS LARGE HALL FOR THIS EVENT. HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH TO HELP THE COMMUNITY OF EAGLE POINT.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Eagle Point Historical Society & Museum will be replacing two Board members at our annual pot luck and election of officers, August 12, 2001.

Outgoing Board member, Wayne Jackson, has served a six year term, and Maryanne Miller filled a position that expires in August 2001. She is eligible to be elected to her own position.

All members in good standing (member for 30 days and paid membership) will be eligible to vote. A business membership will have one vote and husband and wife will each have a single vote. Ballots will be mailed out at the end of July.

Grant Received

We have received a $252.52 grant from the Oregon Museum Grant program. This grant is divided among many qualifying applicants. This year $25,000 was available. One-hundred-and-seven applications were received. Ninety-nine were determined to be qualified and received a portion of the money. We plan to use the money for a mini-outdoor exhibit of some items that need to be displayed permanently outside the museum.

Get Ready For Our Annual Gigantic Yard Sale

Sunday August 19, 2001

44 BOOTHS LINE THE STREETS FROM THE BUTTE CREEK MILL TO MATTIE BROWN PARK. SELLERS LOAD UP THEIR CAMPERS, RV'S TABLES, CHAIRS AND BRING THEIR ITEMS TO SELL AT BARGAIN RATES

THE LARGEST YARD SALE OF THE YEAR, SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:

TOOLS, BOOKS CRAFTS, PLANTS, TOYS JEWELRY, CLOTHES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, ANTIQUES AND MUCH MUCH MORE.

FOURTH ANNUAL YARD SALE
SPONSORED BY THE EAGLE POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM.
Space Information call Barbara Hegne
826-4166

FUN FOOD & BARGAINS

START YOUR MORNING WITH A FRESH DONUT AND A HOT CUP OF COFFEE AT THE EAGLE POINT MUSEUM

HAND-DIPPED ICE CREAM FROM THE EAGLE POINT GRANGE BOOTH

HOT DOGS & SODAS FROM THE VFW BOOTH

Rare Phoenix Buttons from our artifact collection

We have two rare **Phoenix Buttons** in our collection.

N. G. Seaman, well-known author of "Indian Relics of the Pacific Northwest reports: The French inscription "je renais de mes cendres" translate into English means "I rise again from my ashes."

According to Herodotus, the fabulous Phoenix bird of mythology came from Arabia once every 500 years to the sanctuary dedicated to it at Heliopolis. It brought with it the dead body of its parent, which it buried in the shrine, from whence a new phoenix then rose. In the more modern version of the legend, the bird at the age of 500 built a funeral pyre of wood and aromatic gums, lighted it with the fanning of its wings, then rose from the flames with new life. Hence, the saying "I rise again from my ashes."

Until recent years little was known about the buttons which depicted this same Phoenix bird. Relic collectors have found them in various parts of the Northwest. One was turned up at Carmel, California and several have also been found in Nebraska. The designs on Phoenix buttons vary; they bear different numerals and occur in different sizes and shapes.

Mr. Seaman believes that they followed a circuitous route in their journey to the Northwest, and has traced them back to King Christophe I of Haiti.

Christophe, despotic ruler of Haiti from 1811 until his suicide in 1820, was an African slave who received his freedom as a reward of faithful service. He subsequently became one of the leaders in the movement against the French, until he obtained undisputed possession of Haiti, resulting in his kingship.

The Phoenix Buttons are thought to have been made in America for the tunics of his soldiers. The highest number found on any button has been 30. Just how these buttons made their way to the Pacific Northwest as trading items for the Indians is not certain. It is known that they were not used by the Hudson's Bay company in its trading operating with the Indians. They first showed up in this area about 1835, according to Mr. Seaman, and probably were introduced into the Indian trade by an American.

These rare and valuable Phoenix Buttons No. 1 & No. 7 were donated a few years ago by member Kay Kelty.

Membership:
Teens $5.00
Single $7.50
Husband & Wife $12.50
Business $10
Lifetime $250

We are located in the Historic District of Eagle Point, Oregon, between the Old Antelope Covered Bridge and the Butte Creek Mill on North Royal.
ADMISSION FREE

Board Members:

Wayne Jackson, President
Skip Geear, Vice-President
Rick Chamberlain, Treasurer
Lynn Helgedalen, Secretary
Gary Afseth, Board
Maryanne Miller, Board
Kurt Berger, Board
Barbara Hegne, Chief administrative officer
Melva Smith, Staff

Volunteers:
Virginia Cutler
Dale Diebold
Beryl Hickson
Arlene Hoffman
Louise Jackson
Inita Kaiser
Maryanne Miller
Carol Reynolds
Don Reynolds
Lois Huntley

The Eagle Point Historical Society regular meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7 pm.
The public is encouraged to participate in the future of the organization. Refreshments will be served.

Eagle Point Historical Society
P. O. Box 201
Eagle Point, Oregon 97524

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 40
Eagle Point, Or. 97524

True Historical Stories

To:

Woodville Museum
P. O. Box 1288
Rogue River, Ore. 97537